

**QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM**

**LIST FOR**

**WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA**

Issues Program List Herein  
Covers the Period  
JANUARY 1, 2009 through MARCH 31, 2009

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 1<sup>ST</sup> quarter of 2009. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/01/09                                      6am                                      : 30**

In Springfield the first day of 2009 erupted in violence. Springfield Police Sgt. Sean Arpin said around 1:00 a.m. police were called to Finnegan's Bar on Liberty Street for a large disturbance. Sgt. Arpin said several fights broke out inside and outside of the bar. One man was stabbed several times in the torso and was taken to the hospital. Sgt. Arpin said he suffered only minor injuries. There were also shots fired during the disturbance. No victims have come forward but Sgt. Arpin said blood at the scene indicated someone was possibly hit.

**News                                      01/01/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

One person was stabbed in Holyoke overnight. Lt. Michael Higgins said police were called to 261 Elm Street just after two this morning. When they arrived, they found one person stabbed twice in the back and the abdomen. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center to be treated for non-life threatening injuries. A suspect 25-year old David Gonzalez was arrested and is being charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and attempted murder.

**News                                      01/04/09                                      11pm                                      : 30**

A Sunoco Gas Station clerk was robbed at gun point in broad daylight. At around 4:20PM Detective Eric Watson says this fellow walked into the Sunoco at 810 Meadow St in Chicopee and showed a knife to the clerk demanding all the money in the register. Police believe the suspect fled in a green Ford Taurus with tinted windows. If you have any information please contact Chicopee Police at 594-1730.

**News                                      01/06/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

Also in Springfield officers from the Special Victims Unit have arrested a man for allegedly sexually assaulting a 15 year old in three separate incidents over the last several weeks. Sgt. John Delaney from the Springfield Police Department told 22news that 21 year old Aaron Bilodeau of Springfield is being charged with three counts of statutory rape of a child. Police say the victim knew the offender. Bilodeau will appear in court later today.

**News                                      01/06/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

A man from Springfield allegedly steals a computer from Wal-Mart and tries to pawn it minutes later. 29-year old Benjamin Phillips was arrested yesterday afternoon for stealing a brand new computer from the Wal-Mart on Boston Road. Sgt. John Delaney said a store employee saw Phillips walk 'out' of the 'in' door with the computer. The employee told police the man was driving a Dodge Neon which was later spotted by an officer.

outside the People Exchange pawn shop on Dickinson Street. Phillips was allegedly taking the new com out of the car when he was arrested. He is charged with larceny and will be arraigned today.

**News**                                      **01/07/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Sunderland man is charged with attempted murder and numerous other charges after a home invasion Northampton late last night. 25 year old Keo Bun of 199 Russell Street in Sunderland is charged in the h invasion at 251 Pleasant Street. Northampton Police Chief Russell Sienkiewicz told 22NEWS that police responded to a stabbing at the home where they found a 31 year old man with non-life threatening stab wounds. Another man and woman were also in the apartment, neither was injured. Captain Sienkiewicz Keo Bun is the ex-boyfriend of the woman. He says Bun entered the home and made threats towards th year old man. Bun then allegedly dispersed a chemical substance inside the apartment and made threat towards his ex-girlfriend. Police aren't releasing what the chemical was. A hazmat team was called to th scene and the entire building was evacuated. Bun was ordered to undergo 20 days of evaluation at Bridgewater State Hospital following his arraignment in Northampton District Court.

**News**                                      **01/08/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested a Springfield man for allegedly impersonating a police officer. 31 year ol Nelson Aponte of 77 Drexel Street was arrested yesterday at his home. Sgt. John Delaney of the Spring Police Department told 22NEWS that Aponte was targeting Springfield elderly housing units last month. would flash a badge stating he was a Springfield Police officer or that he worked as a Security officer for Springfield Housing Authority. He would then enter their homes, steal money, and take off. Sgt. Delaney Aponte's scam was to feed his heroin addiction. He faces numerous charges, including failure to register Sex Offender.

**News**                                      **01/10/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A home invasion victim had quite the story to tell Springfield police today. Springfield police Lt. John Lyn told 22News of the home invasion around midnight at 151 Florence Street. The owner of the house had police that two men, once of them wearing a mask, broke into the house and struck him over the head se times with a pistol. The thieves then got away with the money from the victim's wallet. Lt. Lynch told 22N police first learned about the home invasion from the victim at the Baystate medical center emergency ro He's expected to be okay.

**News**                                      **01/10/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Another case of a Massachusetts school teacher accused of having sex with a student has Springfield ar residents wondering where will this end? The 29 year old married woman from the town of Abington has accused of having sex numerous times with a student since he was thirteen. The associated press repor that Christine McCallum faces three counts of rape.

**News**                                      **01/12/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield saw fewer homicides and other major crime fall last year, but the city police chief says he is n comforted by statistics that could shoot up again this year. Mario Hornsby Senior is reminded of his son's

brutal death everyday. You take the pain and bury it inside and try to press on. He and his family live next door to the Maynard Street murder scene. Their son, a rising Central High basketball star was caught in crossfire an innocent victim of a gang-related shooting last May. Mario Hornsby Junior was one of 13 murder victims in Springfield last year.

But there's home amid this disheartening statistic, homicides were down 30-percent from 2007.

We're staying the course against domestic violence, were stepping up efforts. Hopefully in 2010, we'll see the same or better than 13 murders this year. Hornsby now makes it his mission to combat youth violence.

From an angered father to a dedicated activist - he formed the Mario Hornsby Resource Center for Youth.

**News**                      **01/12/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield police are touting technology for helping put two armed and dangerous men behind bars over the weekend. Sensors equipped with microphones placed across crime hot spots can pinpoint a location every time a gun is fired, alerting police. The shot-spotter system allowed police to respond, within seconds, to a shot fired on the corner of Dwight Street extension and Marble Street at 2 this morning. Arrested were 36 year old Alexander Rodriguez and 35 year old Hector Alvarado. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News, each was armed with 9 millimeter guns and wearing full body armor.

**News**                      **01/13/09**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

Springfield police captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news, police were called to 182 Quincy Street just before 2 this morning. There was an altercation between two males, apparently over a female. One of the males allegedly stabbed the other in the stomach and neck before taking off. The victim was transported to Bay Medical Center with non-life threatening wounds. Dexheimer says they have identified the stabbing suspect and will continue to search this morning.

**News**                      **01/13/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield Police arrested what they thought was a suicidal patient speeding onto Interstates 91 and 391. Police responded to a call of a crisis patient fighting with Mercy Hospital security personnel tonight. When they arrived the man hopped in a car and sped onto Chestnut street, I-91, and eventually surrendered on I-91 in Chicopee. Springfield Police Lt John Bobianski told 22News they arrested 36 year old Raymond Rodriguez and charged him with possession of cocaine and marijuana with intent to distribute a default warrant and about a dozen traffic violations. Sgt. Bobianski said police determined Rodriguez was actually trying to find a woman from Mercy's Crisis Unit.

**News**                      **01/13/09**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Another local bank has been robbed. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22news, that the Union Bank on 115 State Street in downtown Springfield was robbed at about 12:30 this afternoon. Sergeant Delaney says that the suspect handed a teller a note demanding money, and told the teller he had a gun, then took some money and ran off. If you have any information about this robbery, please contact the Springfield Police Department at 787-6355.

**News**                      **01/15/09**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Police quickly captured three men who broke into a Springfield clothing store early this morning. Police Sergeant John Delaney tells 22news that at 3-22 this morning a MassMutual Security Guard spotted three men breaking into the "Signatures" clothing store at 1232 Main Street. A Mass Mutual Security camera captured the burglary on tape, providing Springfield police with a glimpse of the suspects. A short time later Springfield police caught three suspects carrying, and even wearing some of the stolen items. Police arrested the three city men, 19 year old Carlos Sanchez, 27 year old Manuel "Lefty" Hernandez, and 19 year old Perez. All were arraigned in Springfield district court today on charges of breaking and entering, and larceny from a building.

**News**                      **01/17/09**                      **6am**                      **: 30**

A man is in critical condition after chasing two suspects who allegedly snatched his mother's purse at a Holyoke grocery store. 19 year old Gabrielle Turgeon and 42 year old Ernest Brouillette were arrested yesterday afternoon at Schermerhorn's Seafood. Chief Anthony Scott from the Holyoke Police Department told 22news that the 2 suspects allegedly grabbed 82 year old Dorothy Brunelle's purse in line at the Stop Shop on Northampton Street. Chief Scott says Brunelle's son Eugene was struck by the car the suspects were using to get away. The Springfield Police Department assisted in tracking down the suspected vehicle and the stolen purse which was found in a dumpster. 56 year old Eugene Brunelle remains in critical condition at Baystate Medical Center. Both suspects are being held on bail.

**News**                      **01/17/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

A man held up a Ludlow bank today and got away with an undetermined amount of money. But before he fled from the New Alliance bank on Center Street, the surveillance camera got a good look at him. Ludlow detective Sgt. Thomas Foy told 22News, this man handed the teller a note warning that he had a weapon. The man caught on camera is said to have gotten into a brown Jeep Cherokee. Sgt. Foy told 22News, Ludlow hadn't had one of its banks robbed since December of 2007, and it was the same New Alliance bank. That suspect was caught and put behind bars. If you can help Ludlow police put this man behind bars, please call Ludlow police at 583-8305.

**News**                      **01/19/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

A school's youth counselor has been arrested after he allegedly had a package of pot delivered to the school where he works. Boston police say Lester Robinson arranged to have a pound and a half of marijuana delivered to the compass school. Robinson was arraigned today and charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana within 1000 feet of a school zone. A drug-sniffing dog alerted to the package while it was still being handled by the u-s postal service.

**News**                      **01/21/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Holyoke police have a 23 year old South Hadley man in custody after an attempted robbery at a fast-food restaurant. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott told 22News Ali Gadjigo walked into the Maple Street MacDonald's last night claiming he was armed, and demanded all of the money in the register and safe. Employees called police who arrived within minutes, entering the restaurant with weapons drawn. Chief Scott says the suspect's being held on 500 dollars bail.

**News**

**01/21/09**

**6am**

**: 30**

Springfield Police are investigating the city's first murder of the year after a man was shot and killed inside a Mardi Gras night club early this morning where the man was rushed to the hospital just after 1:30 this morning. Police are still trying to piece this grizzly crime together right now they are in the process of questioning witnesses. Springfield police were called to the Mardi Gras night club on Worthington around 1:30 this morning for reports of a man shot in the head. Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news they found a city man in his early 30's fighting for his life inside the night club. The city man, whose name is not being released, was transported to Baystate medical center where he was pronounced dead a short time later. The homicide squad has moved in and they are taking over the investigation they do not have any suspects this morning. The Mardi Gras night club is open until 2:00 in the morning, so people were still inside at the time of the shooting. This morning, witnesses continue to be questioned in what is the city's 1st murder of 2009.

**News**

**01/22/09**

**12pm**

**: 30**

Three men in Holyoke have been arrested on multiple charges including kidnapping and armed robbery. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott said in a news release that 23 year old Manuel Delhoyo, 25 year old Jose Colon, and 22 Year Old Luzander Montoya allegedly abducted 17 year old Perfecto Davila and forced him into a car at knifepoint around 7:30 last night. Chief Scott says Davila was beaten and robbed. About two hours later, police stopped a car matching the vehicle description for failing to stop at a stop sign. The driver, Luzander Montoya, allegedly admitted he did not have a driver's license and the three suspects were all arrested when an inspection of the car produced the money and possessions stolen from Davila. All three men were charged with kidnapping, armed robbery, and assault and battery. Chief Scott says the three suspects account for 100 arraignments and can be considered a three man crime wave.

**News**

**01/22/09**

**5pm**

**: 30**

Local police are investigating two attempted bank robberies that took place within minutes of each other in different communities, one at the Bank of America branch at 3065 Main Street in Springfield. It happened early in the afternoon. According to police Sgt. John Delany the suspect handed the teller a note stating he had a gun but the suspect fled before receiving any money. If anyone had any information about the identity of the robber, you are asked to call the Springfield Criminal Investigation Bureau at 787-6355. According to police the description of the robber matches an earlier bank robbery attempt on Holyoke.

**News**

**01/22/09**

**5pm**

**: 30**

Shortly before noon Holyoke police were called to the People's Bank on South Street. Holyoke Police Sgt. Michael Sheedy told 22News a black or light skinned Hispanic male passed a note to the teller, but he left without getting any money. The man ran from the bank and was last seen in the area of Northampton Street.

**News**

**01/23/09**

**11pm**

**: 30**

And Springfield police have issued an arrest warrant in the city's first murder of 2009. Captain Robert McFarlin told 22NEWS that police are searching for 27-year-old Rodney Briggs of Springfield. Captain McFarlin says Briggs shot 22 year old Jose Colon in the head at point blank range while Colon was sitting at the bar at the Mardi Gras early yesterday. Captain McFarlin says Police consider Briggs armed and

dangerous. If you have any information on Rodney Briggs, you're asked to call the Springfield Detective Bureau at 787-6355. Springfield Police warn if you see Briggs, you should not approach him, but instead call 911.

**News**                                      **01/25/09**                                      **7am**                                      **: 30**

Police are still looking for three men that allegedly gagged and bound a woman for over three hours after forcing their way into her home. The victim says she was walking her dogs when three men jumped her, forced their way inside her house on Manchonis Road in Wilbraham. She says the men allegedly punched her, tied her to a chair, and held her at knife point while demanding drugs and money. They then proceeded to search the house creating a mess in their wake. The victim says they eventually left, and she was able to run to a neighbor, her hands still bound, to call police. The police are looking for the public's help for more information in a news release they describe the suspects as a black male, 5 feet four inches, with a slim build wearing a black jacket. A Hispanic man under 5-4 average weight wearing a black jacket. And a slim build Hispanic, 5 feet 9 inches tall, wearing a hoodie and army style jacket. If you have any information you can contact the Wilbraham Police at 413-596-3837.

**News**                                      **01/25/09**                                      **7am**                                      **: 30**

Police are questioning a Springfield man in the hospital this morning after he took his car on a crash course through downtown overnight. 22News reporter Anthony DiLorenzo is live in Springfield where that wild ride came to a crashing conclusion. An armada of police cruisers on Taylor Street near the Mardi Gras where the driver had to be extricated. Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22News, minutes before the 30 year old Springfield man went on a wild ride downtown. Just before 3 this morning, the driver allegedly crashed into another car on Dwight and Lyman streets but refused to stop. Dexheimer said he kept going on his tour of destruction -- smashing into a parking meter, a street light and a building under construction next to the Bourbon Bar. The man was taken to Baystate Medical Center with head and other injuries but will be okay. He's being charged with speeding, driving to endanger, and leaving the scene of an accident police say he was not under the influence.

**News**                                      **01/25/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

The Main street bar scene in Springfield can be a dangerous weekend destination as one customer found out early this morning. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan told 22News; as many as six men jumped the victim outside Mr. D's Sports Bar at 578 Main Street about the time the bars close at two o'clock in the morning. Moynihan's report shows that the gang of assailants beat up the bar patron, took his money and cell phone. The thieves made themselves scarce after scattering.

**News**                                      **01/26/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A 26 year old Haydenville man faces arraignment on manslaughter charges in the beating death of a man outside a Florence barroom three weeks ago. Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel released preliminary results of the Medical Examiner's report tonight. It says John Connell died of a brain injury when his head hit the ground outside the Silk City Tap Room in Florence January 3rd. James Duffy's being held on a half million dollars cash bail pending his arraignment on manslaughter charges Monday.

**News**                                      **01/27/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

We begin with breaking news out of West Springfield, where police are investigating an apparent crime in Riverdale Shops. It happened just about an hour ago. Four Cruisers were outside the Game Stop tonight while detectives were inside lifting fingerprints and taking photographs. The dispatcher at the West Springfield Police told us all available personnel were on the scene.

**News**                                      **01/27/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

New Information tonight on a story you first heard about on wwlp.com and then saw on 22News at 11 last Thursday Night. East Longmeadow Police have arrested two town residents and charged them with an alleged armed robbery in Heritage Park. Helicopters and Canines were used to search for suspects last Thursday night after two teens said they were robbed and one of them pistol- whipped in the park. East Longmeadow Police Sergeant Dennis Sheehan told 22NEWS that police arrested 24 year old Mark Cardaropoli and 17 year old Charles Correa, both of 11 Brook Street in East Longmeadow. Both are charged with armed robbery and assault and battery. Bail was set at \$3,000 dollars and both suspects face arraignment tomorrow morning in Palmer District Court.

**News**                                      **01/27/09**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield teen has been arrested for allegedly setting fire to his own apartment complex. Firefighters called to 177 Nursery Street around 11 last night, when they arrived, they discovered a fire in the landing between the first and second floors. Springfield police captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news, firefighters found a container of Kingsford lighter fluid which they believe the suspect used to start the fire.

**News**                                      **01/28/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee Police arrested two suspects wanted for a larceny at a Springfield Jewelry store today. Chicopee Police Lt. Michael Triznadel told 22News that Springfield Police alerted Chicopee about a vehicle linked to a larceny at Emmanuel jewelry on 1307 Liberty Street this noon-time. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22NEWS that Miguel Sosa and Roberto Lugo both of Springfield are charged with larceny. According to Sgt Delaney, the suspects asked to see a gold Jesus medallion and chain. The suspects allegedly grabbed the items and took off. A witness provided a license plate number, and the men were arrested a short time later in Chicopee.

**News**                                      **02/02/09**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

A police pursuit that started in Hartford, CT finally comes to an end in Chicopee. The suspect ran from police after allegedly trying to run someone down with his car. Two states, 40 miles and four police jurisdictions later, the suspect is locked up in Springfield this morning. Police say even after blowing out the man's tires over the state line, he refused to stop until a last ditch effort by police in Chicopee. A swarm of police from Chicopee, Springfield and the state level descending on the corner of west street and center street where they trapped the man around 3 this morning. According to State Trooper Mark Weiner this dramatic ordeal began in Hartford. The man allegedly tried to run down someone he gets into a fender bender with. From there he took off and a chase ensued up Interstate 91 North into Longmeadow. Police threw down stop sticks on



road and deflated his tires but he kept on going until he couldn't run anymore just over the Springfield line Chicopee. According to one witness, he didn't give himself up without a fight.

**News**                                      **02/03/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Hampden police were taking no chances this afternoon when someone fired a shot through the windshield of an oil delivery truck not far from the Green Meadow elementary school. Police Chief Jeff Farnsworth told 22News, the school was locked down as precaution for almost two hours while Hampden and state police probed the shooting. Farnsworth told 22News, they picked up a person of interest for questioning and also recovered the gun. Parents who were notified about the lockdown told 22News, they were protected during this critical time.

**News**                                      **02/06/09**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee Police have arrested a Springfield man in connection with a double stabbing this morning. Chicopee Police Chief John Ferraro told 22News that 21 year old Luis Valentin of Worthington Street allegedly stabbed his former girlfriend and a man at 206 Meetinghouse Road shortly before 7 am. Both victims were taken by ambulance to Baystate Medical Center and are in serious condition. According to Chief Ferraro Valentin is charged with home invasion, breaking and entering, and 2 counts of assault with intent to murder. He was caught after a short foot pursuit.

**News**                                      **02/07/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A security guard at a Springfield apartment complex dodged a bullet this morning reportedly fired at him by a tenant. The security guard's okay but the tenant 22 year old Matthew Ouimette of 810 Beacon Circle has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon and not having a license to carry the .45 caliber handgun. Springfield police Lt. John Collins told 22News, Ouimette and the sixty year old security guard apparently argued words when his security card couldn't open the gate to the complex. According to Lt. Collins, the police recovered the handgun as well as one shell casing.

**News**                                      **02/09/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Police are looking for an armed woman who allegedly robbed a convenience store. You could see all the cruisers parked outside Plum Street Market just after 8 o'clock tonight. Captain Lee Bennett with Springfield Police tells 22NEWS a woman walked in the store with a scarf covering her face. She went over to the clerk showed her knife and demanded all the money in the register. She took the money and ran around the corner last scene wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt.

**News**                                      **02/09/09**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

Police in Holyoke have arrested a mother and son duo for trafficking prescription drugs. 49-year old Deborah St. Amour and 28-year old Christopher St. Amour were arrested on numerous charges in connection with a police investigation at 33 Coit Street. After complaints from neighbors, police launched surveillance on the location and eventually used a search warrant to make the arrests. Police confiscated prescription drugs.

worth \$1,600 dollars in street value and nearly \$10,000 dollars in cash. Deborah St. Amour has been released on bail. Her son, Christopher is being held and is expected to be arraigned today.

**News**                                      **02/09/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

22News cameras were rolling as a suspect involved in an alleged late afternoon car chase is taken into custody. The chase started around 4:30 in Holyoke and ended in West Springfield. After driving through the field the suspect abandoned his car behind 20-25 Riverdale Street. And he was arrested after a brief foot chase. A state police helicopter was also called in to help with the chase. We'll have more information as it becomes available.

**News**                                      **02/10/09**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

A woman is recovering after being allegedly beaten by a fellow employee during a restaurant robbery on Pleasant Street in Northampton early this morning. According to Lt. Ken Watson, the office manager of Roberto's was followed inside by a man who is a cook at the restaurant. He demanded money she was counting and allegedly hit her in the head several times with a crowbar just after 5 am. The 47-year-old woman was treated at the hospital for head injuries and was later released. Police are in the process of getting an arrest warrant for the 26 year old suspect who made off with the money.

**News**                                      **02/12/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police are stepping up their efforts to crack down on drugs and prostitution in the city's lower Park section. According to Springfield police department spokesperson John Delaney three people were arrested last night during a drug raid by the narcotics division at an apartment at 36 Belmont Avenue. 49 year old William Murphy and his brother 39 year old Leonard Murphy were charged with possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute. 33 year old Brenda Diaz of Springfield was also charged with possession of crack cocaine. Delaney said the narcotics officers will be busy in the coming months raiding suspected drug houses in the vicinity of lower Belmont Avenue area and Locust Street.

**News**                                      **02/13/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Federal agents are continuing their search of a home in Ware. The search is being conducted by the FBI, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms, and the Massachusetts State Police. FBI Spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz told 22News some items have been removed from 187 Old Gilbertville Road, but she wouldn't say specifically what agents had seized. The search started last night and continued today. According to U.S. District Court documents, 36 year old Abraham Forish lives at that address. On Thursday on 22News, we reported that Forish had been indicted in federal court for Possession of Ammunition by a convicted felon. Marcinkiewicz says the search is connected to that case.

**News**                                      **02/15/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A pastor facing serious charges of child rape, police say this Church pastor 31-year-old Ana Almeida from the Eastern Massachusetts town of Milford raped a child in her congregation almost a dozen times over two years. The victim was allegedly a girl from her congregation at a Brazilian church, Plenitude of God. The incident

occurred at two of the pastor's homes; Investigators are now focused on finding out if the pastor made sexual passes at any other members of the church. She is currently under house arrest.

**News**                                      **02/16/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

There's an arrest in connection with a fatal January shooting at the Mardi Gras in Springfield. 27 year old Rodney Briggs was arrested this morning in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Briggs is accused of fatally shooting 22-year old Jose Colon of Springfield once in the head inside the Mardi Gras strip club on Taylor Street, Briggs is being held without the right to bail. A rendition hearing is scheduled tomorrow to return Briggs to Bay state.

**News**                                      **02/22/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

A shooting in Springfield overnight leaves one man dead. It happened just after 2 o'clock this morning on Main and State Streets. Lieutenant Trent Hufnagel from the Springfield Police Department told 22news that the victim was a 25 year old male. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds to his chest he was transported to Baystate Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. There are no suspects at this time, the Springfield homicide unit is investigating.

**News**                                      **02/22/09**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police are still searching for two suspects this morning in the robbery of a local Chinese restaurant. It happened around 6:30 last night at the Yummy-Yummy restaurant on Belmont Avenue in Springfield. Lieutenant Trent Hufnagel from the Springfield police department told 22news that when the owner stepped away from the counter that's when the suspects broke into the cash register and stole nearly \$250-dollars. The owner chased the men and that's when one of the suspects allegedly flashed a gun. The suspects are described as two black men approximately 17 years old, wearing black jackets and sweats. If you have any information, you can call the Springfield detective bureau at 787-6355

**News**                                      **02/23/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A member of the Connecticut Army National Guard has been shot and killed in Springfield following an argument with a man in a car. 22News was there just moments after The 25 year old New Britain, Connecticut man was gunned down marking Springfield's second murder this year. Springfield Police Captain John Barbieri told 22News, a passerby tried to help save the man shot 3 times in the chest but the victim the Associated Press is reporting as Julian Carte died later at Baystate medical center.

**News**                                      **02/23/09**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield man was arrested early this morning after allegedly attacking two women with a large hand ax. Springfield Police Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22News, the women took refuge inside this convenience store on the corner of West Broad Street and West Columbus Avenue. Captain Dexheimer told 22News that officers arrested 27 year old Dennis Guyette of 5 Crystal Drive. Dexheimer described the incident as involving Guyette allegedly chasing the two women through the city, and then throwing the ax at them. Guyette's been charged with assault with intent to murder.

**News**                      **02/23/09**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

A Holyoke elementary school teacher is suspected of taking off with a teenage student from her school. Mayor Michael Sullivan told 22News the child's parent contacted the school the day the students were gone out on winter break saying she was worried about her son having an inappropriate relationship with a teacher and neither of them has been seen since. Students at Maurice Donahue Elementary School returned to their classes after a week break Monday but one teacher and a student didn't. Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan told 22News the 24 year old teacher and 15 year student are believed to be together. The student's parents and the teacher's parents filed a missing persons report. When parents at the Holyoke school heard of the incident, a unanimous feeling of disbelief overcame them. The FBI is involved. Mayor Sullivan told 22News authorities believe they have left the state and taking a minor across state lines is a federal offense.

**News**                      **02/24/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield Police say they're looking for four suspects in the murder of a Connecticut National Guardsman over the weekend. Springfield Police Spokesman, Sgt. John Delaney said in a statement that three women, as well as the gunman in a blue Hyundai will all be charged with and prosecuted for murder. 25 year old Julian Carrillo of New Britain, CT gunned down on Main Street near State Street near the MassMutual Center early Sunday morning. Sgt. Delaney said the women will face charges even though witnesses say the Hispanic male in the passenger seat fired the fatal shots in the city's second murder this year.

**News**                      **02/25/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Two teens are pleading guilty to charges that include bringing guns to school last spring. 22News reporter Shane Symolon says they'll face stiff penalties as a third teen faces trial. Those two teens are being sent to the department of youth services until the age of 21. That's the maximum penalty they can receive as minors. They'll be spending some of that time in a youth detention center. According to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, 16-year-old Travis Graves of Deerfield plead guilty to 2 counts of possession of a firearm without a license. 15-year-old Justin Page of Ashfield pleads guilty to 2 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of carrying a firearm without a license. The teens allegedly brought guns to the Mohawk Regional High School in May. When authorities caught the teens, a gun was found loaded.

**News**                      **02/27/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield Police want your help finding a Hartford Man wanted in connection with last week's shooting in downtown Springfield. Police have an arrest warrant for 27 year old Juan Rosa. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney tells 22news Rosa is suspected of randomly firing a gun into the 1800 Club February 16th. Two women in the bar were wounded in the shooting. If you have any information, you're asked to call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355.

**News**                      **02/27/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Three Springfield High School students face charges following an after school fight viewed by thousands on the internet. Springfield school Superintendent Alan Ingram tells 22news school officials are working with Springfield Police to file misdemeanor assault and battery charges against three students involved in an

school fight February 11th. Fists started flying 15 minutes after dismissal outside the High School of Science and Technology. Video of the fight aired on you tube.

**News**                                      **02/27/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield man is charged with raping a 19 year old woman at knifepoint while her four month old infant in car-seat only feet away. According to Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney, 23 year old Elman C. was arrested yesterday afternoon in connection with the alleged attack. It happened at a home on Dwight Street in the city's North End. Delany said the woman managed to escape with her children when the attacker who was apparently a friend's boyfriend became distracted.

**News**                                      **02/27/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Six men were arrested and two police officers injured following a large fight after the bars let out early this morning in Springfield's Entertainment District. According to a Springfield Police Department news release, the crowd was estimated at over 100 people. All six suspects face disorderly conduct, assault and battery, resisting arrest charges. Jorge Maldonado of Springfield and Jorge Ramos of Hartford face additional charges of assault and battery charges on a police officer. At least one of the injured police officers suffered a possible broken nose.

**News**                                      **02/28/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Two gunmen surprised a couple of Springfield fast food restaurant employees early this morning. Springfield police Sgt. Dennis O'Connor told 22News; the employees had just locked up the Jim Dandy restaurant on State Street for the night and were leaving when two masked men with a gun confronted them. Sgt. O'Connor told 22News, the thieves stole the employee's wallets and ran away. Since the store was already closed, they made no effort to steal from the cash register.

**News**                                      **03/01/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield woman suffered through a terrifying ordeal just before dawn. She told Detectives she was forced into a car by a man with a gun and taken to the garage at a vacant house where the gunman then raped her. Springfield detective Alan Mackler of the special victims unit told 22News, the woman in her forties said she was walking along Maple Street, when a black man with a Jamaican accent forced her into the car at gunpoint. She was driven a half mile to Atwood place where the woman told police she was raped in a vacant garage and robbed of all her money. Detective Mackler told 22News, the man they're looking for described as the rape victim, is about 5, 10, slim build and wears his hair very short. If you can help Police with information, please call 787-6352.

**News**                                      **03/02/09**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police are searching for a suspect in an armed robbery overnight that left one man shot. Springfield police Sgt. Sean Arpin told 22news officers responded to a 911 call at Westminster Street around 11:30 last night. Arpin says the 26 year old victim told police he was walking home from the shell gas station on State Street when he was approached by a man wearing a ski mask and red hoodie. The suspect demanded money but when the victim refused the suspect shot him in the leg and fled on foot. The victim

taken to Baystate medical center where he was treated for his injury and later released. No arrests have been made.

**News**                                      **03/03/09**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

It's being billed as the biggest airport burglary bust in history. Nearly a dozen workers at Bradley International Airport are accused of stealing from passengers' luggage. If traveling isn't enough of a headache many passengers became victim to a burglary ring right here at Bradley Intl Airport. State police arrested nearly a dozen baggage handlers for Delta after a six month probe. State police say they recovered stolen items including laptop computers, flat-screen TVs., MP3 players, GPS units, and jewelry and 5-foot wooden carved African masks. Among those facing charges, eight employees of Delta Global Services, two Delta Airlines employees and a family member of one suspect. Police say the investigation began last August after a passenger reported having an iPod stolen from luggage on a Delta flight. In addition to the luggage thefts, police determined that a cargo storage unit at the airport had been burglarized.

**News**                                      **03/04/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Undercover agents from the Federal Drug enforcement administration worked with state police and Belchertown officers today. They allegedly broke up what Belchertown Police chief Fran Fox called "a large marijuana cultivating operation". The strike team converged on 455 Mill Valley Road, where 22News caught sight of state and local police involved in the raid. Chief Fox told 22News, the one hundred marijuana plants represent a sizable illegal operation.

**News**                                      **03/06/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A Connecticut teen has pleaded not guilty to a number of weapons charges after State Police say they found guns and ammo in his truck. Massachusetts State Police say they found them this morning when they pulled over 18-year-old Luke Huizinga of Danbury Connecticut on I-495 in Bolton. Police discovered a rifle, a shotgun and knives during a search of his truck. Huizinga was arraigned today and ordered held on \$10,000 dollars bail. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for April 3.

**News**                                      **03/07/09**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

It was a knock down, drag out fight at a local pizza joint involving a police officer. Authorities say a father and son team tried to kill a cop at their business. It all started when the police officer was ticketing the owner for parking his car in the fire lane in front of his pizza shop. When he refused, the officer attempted to place the owner under arrest and ultimately the father and son choked the officer before slashing him with a knife. It happened here at the Pizza Palace at the corner of Wilbraham Road and Parker Street late Friday. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News, Officer Rafael Vega and 38 year old Demitrios Evangeliou argued about getting the ticket. Delaney says tempers flared and it became a family affair, when the son called for backup from his dad, 40 year old Andreas. The two allegedly fought and put the officer in a headlock, forcing him to use his pepper spray. But they apparently didn't have enough. Delaney said Demitrios went back inside the Pizza Palace to grab a 16-inch knife and started swinging, trying to stab the officer. The fight continued until police backup arrived. Both Evangeliou and his son were arrested and charged with assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest. Andreas Evangeliou is also charged with assault with intent to murder. Father and son face arraignment Monday in Springfield District Court.

**News****03/07/09****9am****: 30**

An argument turns violent and a Springfield man is stabbed. It happened around 5 this morning at 406 Belmont Avenue in Springfield. Captain Eugene Dexheimer from the Springfield Police Department told 22news a man was slashed in the face during an argument with his girlfriend. Police are still searching for a woman described as a black female, around 5'9 and 180lbs. She was last seen wearing a red sweater and blue jeans. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center for non-life threatening injuries. If you have information on the incident you're asked to call the Springfield Police department at 787-6355.

**News****03/09/09****12pm****: 30**

A future doctor, on her way to Africa on a medical aid mission, is dead after a wrong way car crash. Police say a drunk driver who's in the Navy stationed in Groton, CT slammed into the van carrying a group of Connecticut college students on their way to a spring break trip. The driver will answer to a judge today. Daniel Musser a sailor in Groton CT is now behind bars accused of causing this fatal accident. Troopers say Musser was driving the wrong way on 395 Northbound in Montville when he crashed head on into a cargo van filled with Connecticut college students. Police believe Musser had been drinking. The wrong way driver was taken into custody, by police at the scene and transported to troop E where he was processed and charged with manslaughter by motor vehicle, DUI and driving the wrong way on the highway. It was the middle of the night and that group of Connecticut college students was on their way to the airport. They were supposed to spend spring break on a special mission in Uganda, providing orphaned children medical services and supplies. Elizabeth Durante a trained EMT from Islip New York was killed, never given the chance to fulfill her dream of one day becoming a doctor. The van rolled over one individual was fatally injured and 6 others aboard the bus were taken to area hospitals with multiple injuries. The highway shut down for several hours between exits 79 and 79A as troopers reconstructed the scene and gathered evidence. It re-opened near five hours later.

**News****03/13/09****12pm****: 30**

Ludlow police say an elderly couple was found shot to death inside their home in what appears to be a murder-suicide. Around 6:20 last night police found 74 year old Armelin Quiterio and his ex-wife 67 year old Penha Quiterio dead in bed at their home on 19 Cherry Street. Both suffered gun shot wounds to the head. Sgt. Thomas Foye from the Ludlow Police Department told 22news that their son grew concerned and called police to check on the couple after he hadn't heard from them for over a week. Foye said police uncovered a .357 revolver in the male victim's hand. Neighbors said they were a very quiet couple and are shocked something like this would happen.

**News****03/13/09****5pm****: 30**

For the second time in less than a week, there's been a Springfield School that has been targeted by thieves. The latest happened at Springfield's Commerce High School. Sgt. John Delaney from the Springfield police department told 22news that someone broke into the school between three and eleven pm yesterday. The thieves stole cash boxes and rummaged through offices. Sgt. Delaney says the incident is not related to the break-in at Forest Park Middle School Wednesday night.

**News**                      **03/15/09**                      **7am**                      **: 30**

Caught in the act two West Springfield teens in trouble for allegedly breaking into an elementary school by vandalizing the building and a residents car. 22news was here as one of the minors was taken into custody. West Springfield police just before midnight last night were not showing him because he's 13 years old. Sergeant Paul Connor from the West Springfield police department told 22news the suspects broke into the Mittneague elementary school off route 20, on Westfield Street, late last night. Sergeant Connor says no damage was damaged inside the school but the outside was covered with profane graffiti that also apparently made the car of a teacher. And one resident who had his car parked nearby was canvassed with spray paint and had a mirror knocked off. Neighbors say the area has become a problem spot.

**News**                      **03/15/09**                      **7am**                      **: 30**

A Springfield couple is injured after an alleged armed robbery in the city's south end. Captain Eugene Dexheimer told 22news that a man was allegedly attacked with a knife around 8:30 last night on Marble Street by two Hispanic males trying to rob him. His wife tried to intervene when she was allegedly attacked with a knife also. Captain Dexheimer says the couple flagged down a passing officer who along with other officers was then able to chase down one of the suspects. 17 year old Erick Gomez of Springfield was arrested and charged with attempted armed robbery and two counts of assault with a knife. This morning police are searching for the second suspect.

**News**                      **03/16/09**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Holyoke Police chased down three suspects and are now trying to find out if those suspects opened fire on police. The state police helicopter called in along with police dogs, combing 5 blocks of the city. Sergeant Daniel Reardon told 22news they're searching for evidence the suspect's were carrying guns. Neighbors told police they heard gun shots near Sergeant Street. Police say the chase started after a Black Nissan Maxima refused to pull over for police at around 8:30 this evening.

**News**                      **03/17/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Around noon today DEA agents and Holyoke police officers swarmed JTJ Furniture on High Street. Agents took a crow bar and flat screen TVs from the store. We saw at least one person get arrested but his name and the reason for his arrest are still not known. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott referred us to the U.S. Attorney's office but they are not commenting on the incident.

**News**                      **03/18/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

An alleged attempted abduction in Amherst has parents alarmed. This afternoon around 2:30 some elementary school aged children were walking home with some adults along strong street near Hill Street. Police are remaining tight lipped about the situation, but one resident told us one of the children got a headlock from the group just yards away from the adults and other kids, when a car pulled up beside him. The man driving the car allegedly told the child to get in the car. The kid, scared, ran back to the group and told the adults what happened. They then called 9-1-1. Other parents are on the lookout.



**News**                                      **03/21/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

An alleged robber reportedly used a quart sized bottle of brandy to try to rob a motel clerk in Springfield this morning. Springfield police Sgt. Dennis O'Connor told 22News, officers arrested 18 year old Malcolm Harley near the River Inn at Mason Square. Harley allegedly tried to rob the motel clerk by threatening him with the large bottle of brandy. But according to Sgt. O'Connor the clerk turned the tables by coming after Harley with a baseball bat. O'Connor told 22News, when police caught up with Harley, the suspect was still carrying the bottle of brandy.

**News**                                      **03/23/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

In light of reports of attempted abductions in Hadley, Sunderland and Amherst many woman in the area say they're becoming more cautious. Sunderland and Hadley police report 3 incidents of an attempted abduction all with the same MO targeting young females. Then, a possible lead from Amherst police, last Thursday a woman jogging along the Triangle on Smith Street spotted a silver car where the driver slowed down and screamed a comment to the jogger. The woman, spooked made a note of the license plate and reported to police. But so far no arrests have been made.

**News**                                      **03/24/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A man is shot on the streets of Springfield and left for dead. But it was new technology that may have saved his life. Details at this hour are still sketchy, but what we do know, is a 38 year old man is in serious condition after being shot twice and left in the middle of Central Street near six corners. Lt. Norman Charest from the Springfield Police Dept. confirmed for 22News, dispatchers were alerted to shots being fired, by their digital shot spotter device. Patrolmen were sent to the corner of Pine and Central Streets near a vacant lot where they discovered the 38 year old man lying in the middle of the street, left for dead. He was suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, to the torso and leg. EMTs and detectives rushed to the scene, drawing a crowd of onlookers from the neighborhood turned crime scene. The victim was rushed to Baystate Medical Center for very serious injuries and was taken immediately into surgery. One neighbor, who didn't want to be identified describes a chaotic scene just after 11 Monday night. Lt. Charest isn't identifying the victim, but would only say he's not from Springfield. The man is in serious condition at this hour at Baystate Medical Center, but due to quick actions by all involved, he's expected to survive.

**News**                                      **03/25/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Police arrested an alleged drug dealer today on interstate 291. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 28 year old Ernesto Aulet was throwing bags of heroin out of the window before pulling over. A total of 186 bags, police Lt. Charles Cook told 22News once they booked Aulet they went to his home at 118 Ardmore Street where they found even more heroin. Aulet's second floor apartment is within a 1000 feet of Samuel Bowles Elementary School. This morning's arrest is part of an ongoing investigation by the Springfield Police Narcotics Unit.

**News**                                      **03/26/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A brutal broad daylight shooting at a Springfield barber shop has neighbors and store patrons worried about their safety. A gravely wounded man was brought to Baystate Medical Center. A 27 year old Springfield

has been shot in the head no one is under arrest, and right now police are on the lookout for a blue Honda Accord. This while moms, dads and children in the barber shop waiting for a haircut are still trying to make sense of what they witnessed tonight. On Wednesday night more than a dozen people, including several young children were in All Star Barbershop on Boston road when the gunfire started. A 27-year old city resident was shot in the head in the parking lot. Springfield police detective captain Robert McFarlin describes the victim's injuries as grave. Evidence cones mark shell casings left behind after the shooting. Detective captain McFarlin says detectives do not believe the victim was a customer, or a worker at the shop, adding that it appears the victim participated in the shootout. The good news about this investigation is that police say there were at least 15 different witnesses in and around the area of the all stars barber shop at the time when the shots rang out. Police say they're hopeful at least one of these witnesses can shed some light on exactly what happened. Police are carefully monitoring updates on the 27 year old male victim's condition.

**News**                                      **03/26/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee Police are searching for a suspect in an afternoon bank robbery. Detective Dave Nardi told 22NEWS that the Meadow Street TD BankNorth branch was robbed just after 2 o'clock. The armed suspect was described as a Hispanic man about 5-feet 5 inches tall with a medium build. If you have any information, contact the Chicopee Police Detective Bureau at 592 - 6341 or 594 - 1737.

**News**                                      **03/27/09**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

A Holyoke man has been arrested for allegedly abducting a 9 year old girl earlier this month in Springfield. According to Sgt. John Delaney of the Springfield Police Department, 30 year old Edgar Delvalle of Holyoke was arrested yesterday. The suspect allegedly abducted the girl from the Mid-Town Plaza on March 13th while she was walking to the Rebecca Johnson School. Delvalle was arraigned yesterday in Springfield District Court and held on bail.

**News**                                      **03/27/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

A Holyoke man who was out on bail awaiting trial on cocaine trafficking charges has been arrested again on similar charges. According to Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott Police arrested William A. Rivera Thursday after finding 19 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$1,400 in his apartment at 128 High Street. Police also found \$1,800 in cash, as well drug paraphernalia. When Rivera was arrested in June on drug charges, his bail was set at \$10,000 dollars. At his arraignment today in Holyoke District Court on the latest drug charges his bail was set at \$20,000 dollars.

**News**                                      **03/30/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield homeless man was stabbed in broad daylight in front of friends of the homeless shelter on Worthington Street late this morning. Springfield police captain John Barbieri told 22News, the 37 year old homeless man was standing in front of the shelter when a man with a knife walked right up to him and stabbed him in the stomach. The victim is expected to recover. Captain Barbieri described his assailant who fled the stabbing as a 5 foot five inch Hispanic man known as "Popi".

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/01/09                                      5pm                                      : 30**

A new report says the number of college-educated workers is rising here in the Bay State. The report released by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center said about 43.7 percent of the state's labor force has at least a bachelor's degree. That's compared to 30.3 percent of the rest of the country. The center's executive director says the rise reflects an increase in health care, education and information-industry jobs. But the report also said less-educated workers are getting hurt as manufacturing jobs slowly disappear.

**News                                      01/05/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

The number of kids being home schooled continues to rise. According to the department of education, about one and a half million American children are home schooled. That's up 74% since the department started keeping track in 1999. Experts predict the number will rise as more parents are opting for non-traditional education for their children.

**News                                      01/08/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Springfield School Superintendent Dr. Alan Ingram is unveiling a plan for some big changes in the city's school system. Superintendent Ingram says he is calling for a school system-wide Renaissance, to improve academic achievement, make sure more students graduate, and keep campuses safer. Ingram has released a report outlining his plans, which include the appointing of lead teachers to help low performing schools, and a new district alignment that will focus teachers and administrators more on helping students.

**News                                      01/13/09                                      5pm                                      : 30**

The Massachusetts Department of Education has put off making history part of the MCAS test. Some history teachers are not happy about that. The state says it doesn't have the money right now to make a history test, an MCAS component. Just this past weekend, the state decided that adding the history test won't be required for those graduating in 2012 as originally planned. Students must successfully complete the MCAS exams in order to graduate.

**News                                      01/29/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Massachusetts teachers get a near failing grade from the National Council on Teacher Quality; many states are failing to retain effective new teachers. Many people want their children to get a good education. But when schools have trouble retaining good teachers our children are the ones who suffer. It's important for school systems to retain good qualified teachers.

because parents say they expect their kids to receive a good education. We need to really get rid of these bad teachers that aren't on their job and at least pay the good teachers a little more so they want to stay in Springfield. A new report from the National council on teacher quality suggested that quality control is seriously lacking when it comes to keeping good teachers and getting rid of the bad ones; Massachusetts received a D grade for schools maintaining strong teacher quality. The council also found many states don't require sufficient support and evaluation of new teachers. The president of the teacher quality council said that the 3rd through 5th years of teaching represent an opportunity lost for teacher quality because that's when teachers begin to add real value, and also when they tend to make a decision about staying or leaving the profession.

**News**                                      **02/01/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Reading and writing in a recession? Schools now are forced to cut costs to make the grade. Faced with over a million dollar debt the Ludlow Public School is trying to cut costs on this winter's high heating bills. Superintendent, Theresa Kane, has been crunching some numbers she has figured out a creative, yet controversial alternative. She figures over \$43,000 dollars can be saved on the utility bill by closing the school for five extra school days. Classes would be canceled every Friday or Monday for one month. The school committee could vote on the calendar as soon as next week.

**News**                                      **02/04/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Good news for Springfield students looking for college money. The Putnam Scholarship fund is awarding \$135,000 dollars to minority graduates of Springfield public and charter schools who want to attend Holyoke Community College. Scholarship recipients who graduate from HCC and continue on to a four year institution will continue to receive help from the fund until they finish their four year degree program. Students and fund administrators believe this will be an incentive for students to expand their education.

**News**                                      **02/07/09**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Some area schools are only seeing about 50 percent of their students graduating high school within four years. The Massachusetts department of elementary and secondary education has released their numbers for students graduating after four years of high school. Here's a look at some local schools in 2008. Palmer High School had 74% percent graduating that's down nearly 14 percent from 2007. Springfield stayed the same at 54 percent and Chicopee had 66 percent graduation rate, down 6.2 percent. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services for Chicopee Schools, Alvin Morton, says that in a city school system, the focus is making sure as many students graduate as possible, and sometimes it takes longer than four years.

**News**                                      **02/11/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Ludlow Students and teachers are in for some changes next school year as the school committee says they've found a way to save \$650,000 dollars and avoid laying off any

teachers. About 30 parents attended tonight's school committee meeting where the superintendent's suggesting re-organizing the town's three elementary schools. They want to have three district wide schools, one each dedicated to "k" -thru first grade 2nd and third, and fourth and fifth.

**News**                                      **02/20/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Gas isn't the only thing going up in the Bay state. Students at the University of Massachusetts could soon face higher fees. A board of trustees committee for the school has approved a \$1,500 dollar fee hike per student to help off set cuts in state aid. However, officials also say the increase could be trimmed or even rescinded, depending on what the university system receives in federal stimulus funds. The proposal, which would bump average tuition and fees to more than \$11,000 dollars a year, must be approved at a board meeting next Friday.

**News**                                      **02/22/09**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

This year's high school freshmen may be dodging additional requirements on the MCAS test because of the down economy. State education commissioner Mitchell Chester says he will ask the board of education on Tuesday to waive a requirement that students in the classes of 2012 and 2013 pass an MCAS test in history. Chester says the state doesn't have the money to expand the test requirements. The state has given pilot history and social science tests in several grades the past two years. Chester says that without those tests, the state won't have the information it needs to make the history tests a requirement in 2012 and 2013.

**News**                                      **02/23/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees committee has approved a \$1,500 dollar-per-student fee hike, but says the increase could change or even go away depending on the system's share of federal stimulus money. The Committee on Administration and Finance approved the fee hike for in-state undergraduate students to help offset an anticipated \$102 million reduction in state aid.

**News**                                      **02/25/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

The state is seeking stricter standards for graduation rates. Currently, the Springfield School District's overall graduation rate is 54% and they say they are doing everything they can to meet the state's new requirement of 65%. The Kiley Middle School in Springfield has implemented a tutoring and self-esteem program; the program is called Successful Steps and its goal is to motivate students so they don't drop out. The students actually came to the school, they came to the principal, and they came to their administrators, and said we need help. The school provided that help and now these students are stellar students. This program focuses on improving not only academics, but also behavior and attendance. The Springfield School District is targeting all three of those areas in all their schools to drive up their graduation rates.

**News**                              **02/27/09**                              **11pm**                              **: 30**

Springfield school superintendent Alan Ingram tonight took the wraps off a nearly 300,000,000 dollar budget proposal for the coming year. Dr. Ingram says his \$297,000,000 dollar preliminary spending plan protects funding for the classroom while slashing administrative spending. Ingram presented the plan to the school committee tonight. To make up for the necessary budget increases, Dr. Ingram will propose cuts in spending in several departments. A finalized budget will be presented to the School Committee for approval April 2nd.

**News**                              **03/04/09**                              **5pm**                              **: 30**

Today, students at STCC spoke out against the Governor's state budget cuts. It's call-in day at Springfield Technical Community College. Students spent several hours today calling state legislators and the Governor's office to voice their concerns. They say the reductions will have a negative impact on the institution and their education. They want Governor Deval Patrick to stop the cuts and increase funding at public colleges.

**News**                              **03/05/09**                              **11pm**                              **: 30**

Teachers and parents at one local elementary school are fighting for its survival. The Ryan Road Elementary school in Northampton may be forced to close its doors because the city's battling a \$3,000,000 dollar budget shortfall. Tonight parents and teachers gathered at the school to figure out how to help it survive the latest round of budget cuts. Principal Margaret Riddle says parents voiced concerns over the impact of budget cuts on their children. Some parents say closing the school would come at a very high price.

**News**                              **03/06/09**                              **11pm**                              **: 30**

New information tonight in the sudden closing of The Connecticut School of Broadcasting, CSB blamed its financial woes on a tightening in the private student loan market. The school says its lender; Pittsburgh-based PNC Financial took control of the school's accounts. CSB says it will seek bankruptcy protection. One student attending college nearby says abrupt closure shocked the community.

**News**                              **03/20/09**                              **11pm**                              **: 30**

The governor has announced that he'll try to use \$168,000,000 dollars in federal stimulus money to provide much needed funding for bay state schools. Today in Framingham Governor Deval Patrick said in order for Massachusetts to remain a leader in areas like life sciences and clean energy, an investment has to be made now. At tonight's Springfield school committee meeting, educational leaders were buzzing about the pleasant "surprise."

**News**                              **03/25/09**                              **6pm**                              **: 30**

The state has come up with a new way to evaluate student success. Education officials say they will start tracking the progress of individual students to gauge whether they are making progress. Currently, the state judge's success by comparing MCAS scores with scores from the same grade the year before. The Principal of Putnam High School in Springfield supports the new system, which starts this fall.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/30/09                                      11pm                                      : 30**

Baystate Gas repair crews have been on scene in the Aldenville section of Chicopee all day today, and they're still there at this hour. A Chicopee Fire Department dispatcher said they had reports of a strong smell of gas near the intersection of Montgomery and Irwin Streets. The gas leak was found during a routine survey. Repair crews were "venting the lines" tonight in preparation for replacing the faulty valve. The Fire Department had a crew standing by in case any emergencies developed. The situation was not being treated as an emergency, and there were no evacuations ordered. Baystate Gas crews will be on scene until the repairs are complete.

**News                                      02/02/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

New this afternoon the city of Springfield is dealing with the cleanup of thousands of gallons of water on city streets. Kathy Pedersen with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission said that the water was caused by a hydrant change on Mill and Pine Streets. Crews had to shut a water gate to change the hydrant, causing water to come out and flood some city streets. Pedersen said crews are cleaning up now and that none of the water froze.

**News                                      03/18/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

Still following breaking news about a water main break in Springfield; it has had a widespread impact leaving residents not only in the city, but in three surrounding towns with little to no water. The break happened around six this morning at the intersection of Carew and Main Streets in Springfield.



**The following is WWLP programming addressing Health during the 1<sup>ST</sup> quarter of 2009. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/12/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Flu season is upon us and there is flu activity in Massachusetts but we're told that generally here in Western Massachusetts, they're not seeing it yet. One of the best ways to avoid getting the flu is by getting a flu shot. And this year, there's plenty of vaccine on hand, unlike the situation a couple of years ago when there was a shortage. Since we haven't reached the peak of the flu season, a flu shot will still do you some good.

**News                                      01/13/09                                      6pm                                      : 30**

This cold and flu season's keeping Western Massachusetts clinics busy treating running noses and the more serious symptoms of the flu. The Caring Health Center's South End Springfield clinic was wall to wall with patients today, many coming to relieve cold and flu misery.

**News                                      01/13/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

As state budgets are slashed many residents may see the cost of their prescription medications go up. The Prescription Advantage Program has lost 11 million dollars in state funding when the Patrick administration cut a billion dollars from the state budget in October. The result is now some senior citizens may have co-pays that have doubled or tripled for some medications.

The problem is many seniors are on fixed income and increases in drugs, means that everything gets a little tighter. 44,000 seniors depend on the program. The cuts are making many nervous about the future of their prescription medication coverage even if there haven't been cuts to their programs yet.

**News                                      01/13/09                                      6pm                                      : 30**

A local supermarket chain is helping residents fight off germs this winter. Stop and Shop is giving out free generic antibiotics until March. All you have to do is bring your prescription to any of their pharmacies and they'll give you a 14-day supply at no charge. You don't even need health insurance. The supermarket's regional pharmacy manager told 22News, they just want to help out consumers in this tough economy.

**News                                      01/15/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

New claims for jobless benefits increased more than expected last week reflecting continued weakness in the labor market in the New Year. The Labor Department says first-time

requests for unemployment insurance jumped to a seasonally adjusted 524,000 in the week ending January 10th. A Labor Department analyst says the increase is partly due to a flood of requests from newly-laid off people who delayed filing claims over the holidays.

**News**

**02/04/09**

**5pm**

**: 30**

Twenty percent of Springfield youngsters have asthma. That number is double that of the state so the pioneer valley asthma coalition and the American Lung association donated about five-thousand dollars worth of asthma equipment to Springfield Public Schools today.

**News**

**02/12/09**

**6pm**

**: 30**

Bank accounts across the country are taking a major hit due to the economic crisis and this is having a direct effect on your health. The past year has been a rollercoaster ride for Americans as congress battles bailout plans, millions of pink slips are handed out, and retirement plans hit rock bottom. But your wallet may be the least of your worries doctors say the market meltdown is attacking your health. Stress can reduce your body's ability to fight off infections. Stress can lead to chronic hypertension and contribute to heart disease. Dr. Karen Ferroni said when times get tough people postpone annual checkups because they can't afford the co-pays. She's even seen patients cut their medications in half hoping to save some cash. But some less obvious cutbacks are raising big concerns it's the unhealthy food that's sitting in your kitchen cupboards. Maryann McIntyre finds it's hard to buy nutritious food when you're on a tight budget. During these uncertain times doctors urge you to maintain your health. If you've been forced to forgo your gym membership Dr. Ferroni said to get creative and come up with exercise routines you can do at home. You may not be able to do much about the ailing economy but only you control your health.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 1<sup>ST</sup> quarter of 2009. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/05/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

With unemployment at an all time high, the stress is mounting for College Students looking to earn a pay check. The key is to start early. At the University Of Massachusetts Isenberg School Of Management students are being strongly advised to start early seeking internships or even part time jobs to bulk up that resume giving them an edge on the competition. One professor says the workforce experiences in any industry will boost their chances of landing a job post graduation.

**News                                      01/12/09                                      6pm                                      : 30**

Another Western Massachusetts company in danger of going under. They are cutting four hours out of every employees work week across the board. That's \$50 sum odd dollars taken every week out of the employees pocket used to boost the company's bottom line. From Britney's fantasy, to Derek Jeter's Driven, to your bottle of lotion at home, the plastic packaging for all of those products, made right here at Berry's Plastics Factory in Easthampton. Everyone tightening belts at home, slower sales means tougher times for Berry's Employees avoiding pink slips by cutting hours to a 36 hour work week. Employees like Audrey Lamothe, will lose an average of 200 dollars a month. It's better than getting laid off; people would rather see reduced hours then layoffs to a tenth of the workforce's for falling sales. While Employees are coping with a smaller check, Berry's says they had no choice. A quarter of the orders were lost paired with increasing overheads. Resin increases, oil increase incurred have affected the Berry Corporation.

**News                                      01/13/09                                      11pm                                      : 30**

A designer Burger chain may be expanding in the area, bringing even more jobs to Western Massachusetts. Red Robin restaurant opened a location in Holyoke just a few months ago, and now they plan to open a restaurant in Wilbraham. The Red Robin in Wilbraham won't open for at least another month, but they say they need to hire more than one hundred workers to fill part and full time positions.

**News                                      01/16/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

Circuit City Stores Inc. says it has reached an agreement with liquidators to sell the merchandise in its 567 U.S. stores after failing to find a buyer or a refinancing deal. The second-biggest electronics retailer in the nation filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in November. The Richmond, Virginia based company was given permission to liquidate if a buyout was not achieved. Circuit City operates stores in Holyoke, East Springfield and Enfield.

**News**                                      **01/21/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Western Massachusetts-based Yankee Candle Company says it will cut hundreds of jobs. Yankee Candle is cutting 330 jobs and closing one retail store as part of a restructuring plan. The parent company of the scented candle maker also plans to close 28 of its Illuminations stores. Yankee Candle says the job cuts will include 12 corporate and administrative personnel at its corporate headquarters in South Deerfield.

**News**                                      **01/23/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Massachusetts unemployment has hit a 15 year high. The jobless rate jumped to 6.9 percent in December, that's a full percentage point more than the month before. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development say the state lost nearly 17-thousand jobs last month. Professional, scientific and business services saw 75-hundred jobs disappear numbers that are making local residents feel uncertain about their job future.

**News**                                      **01/24/09**                                      **7am**                                      **: 30**

An international office products company with a corporate office in Springfield will soon be shutting down a production plant in nearby Enfield, Connecticut. Workers at Mead Westvaco are the latest to feel the effects of the deepening recession. The Associated Press reports the Enfield plant will close in March, costing 136 workers their jobs. Mead Westvaco had earlier closed two Springfield plants shifting some of that work to Enfield. The company manufactures and distributes envelope products.

**News**                                      **01/30/09**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

If you're looking for a teaching job, the city of Springfield is looking for you. The System held a special recruitment fair last night at Central High School. They're particularly interested in math, science and English language teachers.

**News**                                      **01/30/09**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

Tough economic times are tearing down businesses across the country, including many, right here in western Massachusetts. Berry's Plastics in Easthampton is the latest to lay off several dozen employees. Pink slips are being handed out in large cities and rural towns. 2.6 million jobs were slashed last year alone making for the biggest loss since the great depression according to the U.S. department of labor. Berry Plastics in Easthampton is the latest local business to fall victim to today's struggling economy. Up to 100 employees were laid off. Earlier this month four hours were cut out of every employees work week.

**News**                                      **02/01/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

The numbers are out and they show unemployment here in Massachusetts is the worst it's been since 1993. So far, around 6,800 residents lost their jobs last month alone. Almost half

of December's cuts were from the professional and business services sector. But the Baystate is still lingering above the rest, at 6.9 percent; Massachusetts jobless rate has been consistently below the national level of 7.2 percent.

**News**                                      **02/02/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

There's not a week that goes by when Western Massachusetts doesn't suffer a loss of jobs. H.B. Smith has been making cast iron boilers in Westfield since 1853. Mayor Michael Boulanger told 22News the company informed him that the remaining 45 workers, and there used to be hundreds, will lose their jobs when the plant closes in late March. Generations of Westfield families had worked at H.B. Smith during good times and bad for the past 155 years. Before moving into the industrial park near the Massachusetts turnpike, H.B. Smith was a downtown fixture. It's longtime home now a Supermarket parking lot. And as 45 workers start looking for new jobs, H.B. Smith in Westfield will soon be just a memory.

**News**                                      **02/02/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

H.B. Smith isn't the only local company passing out the pink slips. Friendly's eliminated 13 positions at the company's headquarters in Wilbraham today. Friendly's Spokesperson Maura Tobias told 22News, the company completed a small but necessary corporate restructuring that affected none of the restaurants or field personnel. Tobias says the jobs lost are less than 5-percent of Friendly's corporate workforce. According to Tobias, the cuts were made to make Friendly's more efficient and help manage expenses in a challenging restaurant marketplace.

**News**                                      **02/02/09**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

A new study out of UMASS Boston suggests there are new benefits to casino gambling. The report is titled "Can Casinos Bring Good Jobs to the Commonwealth?" And researchers say yes. In fact, they found these jobs can be beneficial to workers who are often neglected. The Labor Resource Center at UMASS Boston says the gaming industry provides good jobs with good wages and benefits. Their new report suggests that in unionized casinos, these jobs can be particularly favorable to minorities, women and workers without college degrees. Researchers found that these workers, including dishwashers and even cooks, often enjoy bigger paychecks and more generous health care and pension benefits. The report also shows that many casino workers tend to have comfortable lives, owning their own homes, sending their kids to college and enjoying secure retirements. The authors go on to say that the state's workforce development efforts should focus on improving the quality of entry-level jobs.

**News**                                      **02/03/09**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Hundreds of workers have been laid off across Western Massachusetts in recent weeks. From Berry Plastics in Easthampton, to Friendly's to so many have been laid off in just this week. The Hampshire Franklin Career Center in Northampton, it was packed keeping

counselors busy at work helping people update their resume, find the next job suitable for their skill set and even getting people prepared to go on state aid.

**News**                                      **02/04/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Comcast Cable Company is passing out the pink slips. Comcast laid off ten employees in the Western Massachusetts area. Brubaker says that the affected employees held administration and management level positions. She also says the company is working to help them find other job opportunities within the company. Despite the layoffs, Comcast is still hiring technicians and customer care representatives.

**News**                                      **02/06/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Another local company fall's victim to the rough economy and dozens of workers are paying the price. Quill informed their 42 employees this week that they're losing their jobs on June 12th. The office supply company in Agawam is part of Staples. Staples Spokesman Owen Davis blames the current economic climate and slowing customer demand for the closing. He told 22News that they're offering employees severance packages and job placement assistance.

**News**                                      **02/07/09**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

These tough economic times are taking a toll on a Holyoke Paper company. John Hazen, owner of Hazen Paper, told 22News that the company on South Water Street had to reduce its workforce because of slowing sales. Hazen said he shut down two machines and was forced to lay off 15 employees, and move some first shift workers to the second shift. Hazen said he expects the first quarter to be lean, but he remains optimistic business will improve later in the year.

**News**                                      **02/09/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

All across Western Massachusetts, cities, towns and state agencies are grappling with cuts in services and layoffs as the state wrestles with a massive billion dollar budget deficit. The Hampden County Jail in Ludlow is the latest announcing cuts. The Sheriff's Office told 22News that 25 provisional employees will be laid off in March. 22 of those are corrections officers and three of those are counselors. The 25 are the newest hires. But some feel that the jail involves public safety and cuts should occur elsewhere

**News**                                      **02/10/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

The Longmeadow School committee's making some difficult decisions and some teachers may be losing their jobs. Longmeadow Schools Superintendent Jahn Hart told 22news that state cuts combined with decreased town revenues will result in submitting a smaller school budget for next year. She says they're looking at eliminating the equivalent of ten and a half full time staffing reductions, mostly teachers.

**News**                                      **02/12/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Hampden County Correctional officers are fighting to save their jobs. Unionized Jail Employees met tonight at the Unity Club in Ludlow. Earlier this week, the Hampden County Sheriff's Department announced plans to layoff 25 provisional employees next month. Now the union members say they're being asked to give up certain wage benefits to avoid more layoffs.

**News**                                      **02/14/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Sturbridge Village which is known for turning back the clock to life in the late 18th century has suffered the effects of a 21st century recession. Sturbridge Village has cut five jobs from its middle management staff. Other key employees have accepted a twenty percent salary cut according to the associated press. This in spite of the fact the number of visitors grew last year by almost ten percent. The cuts were a prudent move in light of a volatile economy.

**News**                                      **02/18/09**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Nearly 100 Springfield city workers will have to start looking for a new job. Mayor Domenic Sarno presented the city budget cuts at a news conference here today and said 89 city workers will lose their jobs. The Department of Public Works was hardest hit with 44 layoffs followed by the Libraries with 17. City Hall, the Parks department, facilities and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal shelter will also layoff several workers each. Mayor Sarno said some of those layoffs will take effect as early as March 2nd. The city is also looking to reduce costs through employee pay cuts, wage increase freezes and outsourcing some city services.

**News**                                      **02/24/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Unionized Springfield DPW workers say the battle for their jobs is just beginning. About two dozen DPW workers addressed the city council tonight. The mayor announced last week that 44 Public works employees would be laid off. Now they claim the control board wants to privatize the DPW maintenance garage because they laid off all 13 diesel mechanics.

**News**                                      **02/28/09**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

Some promising news to report on the job front, Six Flags is looking to fill 3,000 positions for the upcoming season. Jobless rate 7.6% nationally, 250,000 people without work in Massachusetts. While many employers are scaling back, Six Flags has thousands of jobs up for grabs. If you're at least 16 years old and in need of some summer cash here's your chance. Interviews will be done today on the spot so come prepared and dress to impress. You can even get your application done on-line at [sixflagsjobs.com](http://sixflagsjobs.com) before you show up. Open positions include admissions, concessions, games, lifeguards, promotions, retail and rides, something for everyone. Check out their annual job fair this weekend from 9AM to 5PM and tomorrow at the Human Resources Building on 1756 Main Street in Agawam.

**News**                                      **03/05/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

People who've lost their jobs and need to learn new skills can go to college. But the goal isn't graduation, so much as learning skills for a new career. American International College opened its newest extension campus; the Computer Career Institute. The career Institute provides special skills training for people who've been laid off or need special skills and they can do it on a flexible schedule.

**News**                                      **03/06/09**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

With rising unemployment, job-seekers are becoming more discouraged. If your feeling a bit frustrated trying to find a new job you're not alone. The market is competitive right now, but that doesn't mean you can't land a job if you're resourceful. The nation's unemployment rates rose to 8.1 percent in February, the highest since the late 1983. Cost cutting employers have cut over 650,000 jobs. Although those figures are discouraging, Career Point in Holyoke says jobs are still out there, but people need to sharpen their skills to make themselves stand out.

**News**                                      **03/18/09**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

A tough economy has more people than ever fighting over the few jobs available, and there were crowds showed up looking for an opportunity at a local job fair. Within the first 15 minutes over a hundred people showed up to the small job fair at the Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield. The fair was put together by The Franklin Hampshire Career Center. Over a dozen employers were looking to hire. Job seekers of all ages and job skills waited in lines to get inside, resume's in hand. Some have been looking for a job for months. Residents say they're looking for any and all opportunities because there are few jobs out there.

**News**                                      **03/20/09**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

The local unemployed faces a tough decision, accept work now and settle for a lower salary, or hold out for a job that meets their skills? 22News finds out what's holding workers back, from landing a job in their field that will also pay the bills. Employment counselors say some folks are still too proud to take a pay cut, but the advice they give as weeks drag into months, is take what you can get, or be jobless. The Massachusetts jobless rate rose to 7.8 percent last month as another 11,300 jobs were lost. Most of the losses came in the professional, scientific and business service sectors, as well as trade transportation and utilities. No matter where you turn, you'll find someone feeling the pinch. The labor department says unemployment rose 99.7 percent in January in all but one the hundreds of metropolitan areas it tracks. Here in Massachusetts the unemployment rate is 7.8 percent up considerable from the same time last year at 4.6 percent. Some experts say the decision as to whether to take the first job, or wait for a better offer depends a lot on your current experience level, and the type of position you're applying for.

**News**                                      **03/24/09**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**



More local workers have fallen victims to the recession. Microtest Labs in Agawam temporarily laid off 16 full-time employees Friday. They were part of the company's manufacturing division and it was due to a slow down in that department. The company is working to restore the positions. Chase also confirms that all the other employees took a temporary 5 to 7-percent pay cut. Nearly 100 people work at Microtest Labs.

**News**

**03/26/09**

**11pm**

**: 30**

Scoring your dream job can a tough task. Unemployment rates are rising, which means that the pool of people looking for work is expanding. More than one hundred job seekers came to the 22news job fair today to take a look at some career opportunities offered here at the station. The executive director from Career Point tells 22news that if you're looking for work, you need to start your search as soon as possible.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Smoking during the 1<sup>ST</sup> quarter of 2009. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/01/09                                      6pm                                      : 30**

Question two, the law to decriminalize marijuana possession goes into effect but the question is still creating controversy. Advocates of Question two are speaking out against towns enacting by-laws or ordinances that would allow police the option of treating possession as a misdemeanor offense. Question two replaces criminal charges for small amounts of pot with a 100 dollar fine and passed decisively during the last election. Residents who voted for the law say the time for arguing against the measure is over.

**News                                      01/02/09                                      12pm                                      : 30**

The health problems associated with smoking and second hand smoke exposure are well-known but now researchers are concerned about something called third-hand smoke. Even if you don't smoke around your children, a study finds toxins from tobacco smoke can linger in the air and on hair and clothing long after a cigarette is put out and can transfer to a baby or small child easily. Researchers say that even at low levels, tobacco particles have been associated with cognitive problems in children. However, scientists also found that people who became aware about the dangers of third-hand smoke said they would be more willing to impose smoking restrictions inside their homes.

**News                                      01/02/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

More states are implementing a law mandating fire safe cigarettes. Delaware, Iowa, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas all now have a law mandating Fire safe cigarettes. They are joining Massachusetts and 16 other states that already have the law on the books. Fire safe cigarettes have paper that is thicker in two separate spots, so that the cigarette will go out if it's not puffed. Proponents say that will cut down on accidental fires that happen when lit cigarettes are left unattended. 15 other states have similar laws that will take effect in the next year.

**News                                      01/21/09                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

A Cape Cod lawmaker is hoping to add restrictions to the state's marijuana laws after voters approved a measure decriminalizing possession of an ounce or less of the drug. Dennis Democrat Cleon Turner filed two bills, one of which would give school officials, employers and building managers the right to ban marijuana from school grounds, places of work and public buildings. The second bill makes failure to pay three or more marijuana possession citations in a single year punishable by a \$1,000 fine or six months in jail. While the new law decriminalizes small amounts of pot, marijuana remains illegal.

**News**                      **02/09/09**                      **12pm**                      **: 30**

While not much is known about the long-term effects of smoking marijuana, a new study suggests it could significantly increase a man's risk for testicular cancer. Researchers compared over 350 men diagnosed with testicular cancer to nearly one thousand healthy men. They found those who were marijuana users had a 70 percent increased risk for developing the most aggressive form of the disease. The risk was higher for men who had used it for longer periods of time, or those who started using it when they were teenagers.

**News**                      **03/09/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Starting next month, smokers will pay more than a dollar per pack in federal tobacco taxes. And some are already feeling the burn of that upcoming hike. The 62-cent federal cigarette tax increase is effective on April 1st. Currently it's 39-cents. This hike will fund the expansion of the State's Health Insurance Program to cover more uninsured children. The federal tax increase will also apply to cigars, pipe and chewing tobacco, cigarette paper and tubes. Health advocates say the hike might help more smokers kick the habit.

**News**                      **03/24/09**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

City leaders don't want people smoking pot in public in Springfield. They want to stiffen state fines for the new law decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana. The City Council tonight unanimously approved a proposed ordinance to increase fines for public consumption of pot. First offense for anyone caught with pot in public would face a \$100 fine, in addition to the state penalties.

**News**                      **03/26/09**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Massachusetts smokers are once again the target of some state lawmakers; they're looking to net millions by raising taxes on certain tobacco products. An advocacy group called Tobacco Free Mass is also behind the push to bring taxes on some tobacco products to the same level as cigarette taxes. Buckeye Brothers smoke shop has been selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in Springfield's South End for years. Owner David Glantz worries that higher taxes on these items could put him out of business. The federal tobacco tax is scheduled to increase on April 1st. Higher state taxes could also be on the way. Representatives Jonathan Hecht and Sean Garballey want to raise taxes on smokeless tobacco, loose tobacco and small cigars, a move that's not sitting well with many smokers. The group Tobacco Free Mass is part of the effort to hike those tobacco taxes so they're even with cigarette taxes. They say teens have been switching to the cheaper products since the state cigarette tax went up in July. Lawmakers hope to rise between 10 and 13 million dollars a year if the hike goes into effect. The money would go to the state's Tobacco Control Program and Office of Oral Health.

**News**                      **03/31/09**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Smokers are again the target of a tax increase. Beginning Wednesday, the single largest federal tobacco tax increase will take effect. The government plans to finance a major expansion of health insurance for children. Major cigarette makers raised prices earlier this month in an effort to absorb the expected rise in cost. The items expected to go up are cigars, loose tobacco for pipes and hand rolled cigarettes, and rolling papers. Local retailers say their customers are fed up with being the focus of tax increases.